

Remarks

Claims 1o-24 and 26 stand rejected as indefinite for failure to specify the nature of the modification of the bases. Claim 18 has been amended to specify the nature of the modifications. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 9. Claim 26 has been cancelled without prejudice to its prosecution in a continuing application. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments overcome this rejection.

Claim 18 has been rejected as indefinite as confusing as to what the Markush group modifies. As suggested by the Examiner, the comma following the word "moiety" has been removed. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment overcomes this rejection.

Claim 27 has been amended to depend on claim 18.

Claim 18 has been amended to remove the term "including a human", as claim 19 covers this element.

Claim 23 stands rejected as not specifying the order of administration of the adjuvant, vaccine and the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide. Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is definite when read in the context of the specification, particularly at page 12, where the term "in combination with" is defined.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that all presently maintained rejections for indefiniteness be withdrawn.

Claims 18-27 stand rejected as obvious over Hutcherson et al. In particular the rejection notes that Hutcherson recites altered base units. Claims 25 and 26 have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot as to those claims. Applicants have amended claim 18 to specify the particular altered bases according to the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that Hutcherson neither teaches nor suggests the altered bases recited

in amended claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 18-24 and 27 for obviousness be withdrawn.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-24 and 27 are ready for allowance.

A check for the fee for the RCE is enclosed. If any additional fees are required, the Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 50-2285. If the Examiner believes that any discussion of this communication would be helpful, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at 781-933-6630.

Respectfully submitted,

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